

# WTF is WTF?

## An Evening with John Sinclair & Friends

WTF is a chaotic, artistic, multi-media, multi-generational, multi-musical genre event that will invade 4 cities across the Pacific Northwest. Each show will be completely different. The musical guests will change, speakers will change, and even the performers who are on the entire tour will change their shows each night.

“Each performance will be like a snowflake”, says event organizer, and filmmaker Shane Bugbee.

WTF is a collaboration of artists, musicians, poets and activists, whose politics vary widely, but all agree that conversation, debate, expression, and information is the answer.

The performers run the gamut of methods and views, some are focused on the environment, some on free speech, some on the political system, and some may be nihilists, making for a diverse, contrasting, perhaps even conflicting show -- maybe even a shouting match!

**John Sinclair** is a... poet, an activist, a spokesman for a marijuana seed company, a publisher, a promoter, founder of the White Panther Party, and the subject of songs by John Lennon and folk legend Phil Ochs, and so much more. A collection of archives from he and his wife Leni has recently been acquired by the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

John Sinclair was an outspoken writer and publisher in Detroit, after attending college in Flint, Michigan, he was involved in the reorganization of the Detroit underground newspaper, *Fifth Estate*, which continues to

WTF is crazy, and fun, and angry, and political, it's about taking a stand, and it's about creating your own reality and saying FTW!

WTF offers total aural stimulation,



visual overload, and a smorgasbord of ideas!

- Hear Jazz, Blues, Punk, and Metal bands perform live.

- See amazing performance art, thought provoking short videos, live poetry readings, spontaneous poetry and music collaborations, and

possibilities of cultural revolution. In May-June 1968, after two fire bombings of the commune, Sinclair re-established the entire organization in two huge homes at 1520 Hill Street near that University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor.

After a series of convictions for possession of marijuana, Sinclair was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1969 after giving two joints of marijuana to an undercover narcotics officer. While in prison he assembled and wrote *Guitar Army*, and published another collection of writings, *Music & Politics*, coauthored by Robert Levin.

His prolific writings appeared in numerous publications, making him a national symbol,

more -- The greatest minds of four generations!

- Feel the raw emotion, the energy, and the voodoo power as we overtake each city, taking NO prisoners!
- Taste the sweat and blood that these

In another bullshit election year, the creative and outspoken must stand together and question the oppressive authority being forced on us now by corporate control of the media and the government. We must take a stand against manipulation of the masses, we are not ascribing to any organization, because we do not know their agendas or their backers, we only know that true, honest self-expression, and words from the wise can help us all find the answers.

When a nation is under siege, the first people killed are the artists and intellectuals, don't miss seeing this event, because who knows what tomorrow will bring!

*“The real culture warriors...not some shrill phony hack jobs like the republicrate worms that say they are a vital or even sideline to creating good honest line crossing culture...pinhead is not a valued cultural contribution, this project is, so please support these warriors as much as you can...”*

~ **Pat Cooksey**



*Please think about supporting crazy ideas and artistic endeavours... kick the kickstarter:*  
The WTF FEST kickstarter is linked from the website:  
**wtffest.com**  
**<http://www.wtffest.com/?p=146>**

## John Sinclair

### Lyrics by John Lennon

It ain't fair, John Sinclair  
In the stir of breathing air  
Won't you care for John Sinclair?  
In the stir of breathing air.  
Let him be, set him free  
Let him be like you and me.

They give him ten for two  
What else can the judges do?  
Gotta, gotta.....gotta, set him free.

If he had been a soldier man  
Shooting gooks in Vietnam  
If he was the CIA  
Selling dope and making hay  
He'd be free, they'd let him be  
Breathing air, like you and me.

They gave me ten for two  
What more can the judges do?  
Gotta, gotta....gotta set him free.

Was he jailed for what he done?  
Representing everyone  
Free John now, if we can  
From the clutches of the man  
Let him free, lift the lid  
Bring him to his wife and kids.

They gave me ten for two  
What more can the bastards do?  
Gotta, gotta...gotta set him free...



publish to this day, making it one of the longest continuously published alternative periodicals in the United States.

Sinclair managed the hard-edged proto-punk MC5 from 1966 though 1969. Under his guidance the band embraced the counter-culture revolutionary politics of the White Panther Party, founded in answer to the Black Panthers' call for white people to support their movement.

In February 1967 Sinclair organized (with partner and now wife Leni Arndt Sinclair and artist Gary Grimshaw) a "total cooperative tribal living and working commune", thus the Trans-Love Energies Unlimited was born. Trans-Love produced dances, concerts, books, pamphlets, posters, and the Warren-Forest Sun newspaper (founded and edited by Sinclair and Gary Grimshaw), and served as a cooperative booking agency for rock groups, the MC-5, the Stooges, and Billy C. & the Sunshine.

Trans-Love tried to turn young people on to the

even more influential than ever before. Two-and-a-half years of legal and political battles culminated at the "John Sinclair Freedom Rally" held in Ann Arbor on December 10, 1971, some 15,000 people attended the concert headlined by John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

The event brought together luminaries including pop musicians John Lennon (who recorded the song, "John Sinclair" on his Some Time in New York City album), Yoko Ono, David Peel, Stevie Wonder, Phil Ochs and Pete Seeger, jazz artists Archie Shepp and Roswell Rudd, and speakers Allen Ginsberg, Abbie Hoffman, Rennie Davis, David Dellinger, Jerry Rubin, and Bobby Seale.

Just three days later, the Michigan supreme Court, on its own motion, ordered Sinclair released and later overturned his conviction, upholding his contention that Michigan's marijuana statutes were unconstitutional and void.

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